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## Editorial

# 157 Food stamp lesson

The twains did meet in Congress, and they have produced a food stamp bill that does both sides proud.

From the right came Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas, who has worn his conservatism on his sleeve. From the left came Sen. George McGovern, who proudly wears the liberal label. They decided that with their differing political backgrounds they might find the middle ground on food stamps. And they did.

The bill would make it tougher for abusers to abuse, and it would make it easier for the desperately needy to gain access to the stamps. It shores up the administration of the program, and underlines the necessity of it.

Dole, a Nixon man, viewed McGovern's bid for the presidency as a threat to the republic.

He repeatedly blasted McGovern's "give-away" attitude.

McGovern forces in Kansas viewed Dole as a cold and calculating conservative who had no sympathy for the man on the street. They tried hard, through the candidacy of Bill Roy, to beat him and almost did.

Defeats and near defeats inflict massive wounds on politicians.

Dole and McGovern proved they are big enough to bind the wounds when there's an issue that needs statesmanship and leadership.

It's a lesson for the right and the left, both in Congress and out, as the nation approaches its bicentennial year. God knows the issues are here, all around us, and dogmatic approaches have proved, time and again, they don't work in this complex society.